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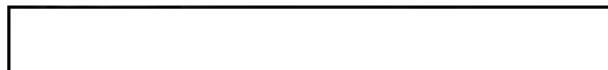


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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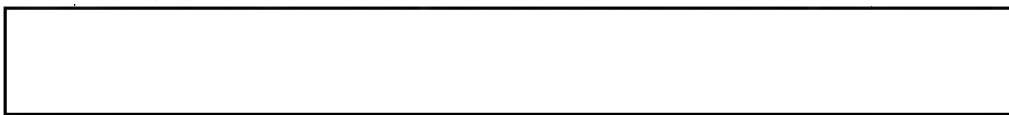
4 August 1966

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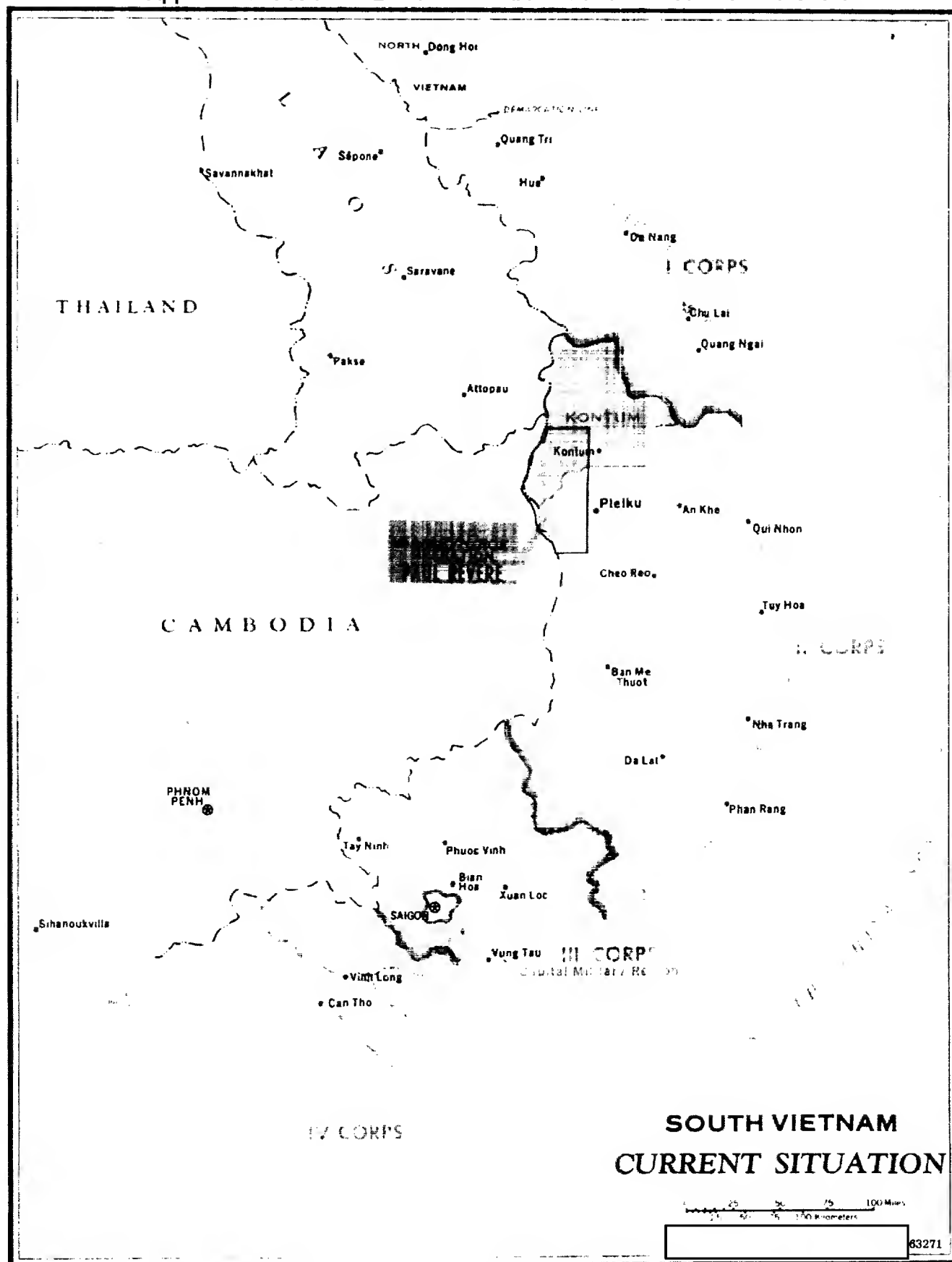
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Fighting between friendly and Communist forces in the central highlands continued yesterday as more US forces were committed to the battle area. (see map)

Operation PAUL REVERE, the long-term border surveillance operation in the western areas of Kontum and Pleiku provinces, continues to move toward a possible major confrontation. On the third straight day of fighting yesterday, a company from the US 25th Infantry Division engaged an enemy force of unknown size and killed 11, without losses to itself. The number of Communists killed in PAUL REVERE since 1 August now totals 110.

Friendly forces committed to this operation total six US Army battalions, one ROK Army battalion and five Civilian Irregular Defense Groups (CIDG) companies. Since the current round of fighting began, four additional US battalions have been assigned to the action, including one from the US Army 25th Infantry Division and three from the US 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). An additional 25X1 brigade of the US 25th Division in Pleiku town has been alerted for possible deployment to the battle area.

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France-US: [France has officially reiterated its tough stand on US wartime re-entry rights.]

[On 2 August French Foreign Minister Couve de Murville made clear to Ambassador Bohlen that France would commit itself to permit US re-entry to bases and facilities in France only in time of war in which France participated. Couve turned down a US proposal that re-entry be granted when SACEUR requested an alert status for NATO. He did not finally rule out a French commitment to allow US re-entry in the event of an alert in which France participated, but Ambassador Bohlen is doubtful Paris will agree to this.]

[Couve also refused to offer solid assurances on the US wartime use of the communications facilities and petroleum pipeline which now serve US forces in Europe. Although Paris appears willing to allow these French-controlled facilities to be used by the US in peacetime, Couve pointed out that for the US to depend on them in wartime would involve a certain risk.]

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Venezuela: Dissatisfaction in political and military circles appears greater than at any time in recent months and has touched off rumors of military plotting.

Chief of staff General Roberto Morean says he is "deeply concerned" over the "extremely serious political and military unrest" and that there is a possibility of some "spontaneous" military coup effort,

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[REDACTED] Morean said the unrest stems from concern over the government's inept handling of its legislative program--especially tax reform, the discovery of Communist infiltration of the military at Maturin in northeast Venezuela, and the alleged leftward drift of the Leoni government.

The US Embassy comments that Morean's view is alarming, and that the tenor of comments received by the embassy from all other sources is "considerably less intense."

While the Venezuelan military can be expected to air their perennial grievances whenever there is political unrest, the situation at this time does not appear to be sufficiently serious to serve as a basis for an attempt at a coup. Nevertheless, unless the political climate improves, a coup attempt may become an increasing possibility. [REDACTED]

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*Uruguay: President of the National Council of Government Alberto Heber has resigned "provisionally," claiming that obstacles placed in his path keep him from governing effectively.

His walk-out may be a maneuver to force reluctant members of his governing Blanco Party to support a bipartisan constitutional reform proposal. He intends to address the nation on 6 August to explain his action. However, until he tenders a final resignation Heber can exercise the somewhat limited powers of his office.

The Uruguayan Government has been basically unable to cope with serious economic deterioration and soaring living costs. Labor agitation, much of it Communist-inspired, has added to its woes. Heber has been unable to carry out a pledge to enforce necessary stabilization programs.

Heber apparently believes that members of other Blanco factions are attempting to torpedo a proposal for bipartisan reform, which would include substitution of a single chief executive for the present nine-man ruling council. There has been some suspicion that he might attempt to depose the other members of the council if the proposed reform were balked.

Heber has forced the appointment to key positions of a number of controversial military officers, known for their loyalty to him. However, other council members evidently have thwarted his efforts to replace the commander of the second military region, General Liber Seregni, a member of the opposition Colorado Party.

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[* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.]

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NOTES

USSR: The two-day session of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) which closed yesterday promulgated no significant legislation and voted to keep the present government cabinet intact. Unexceptional speeches by the "re-elected" President Podgorny and Premier Kosygin, whose resignation had been rumored earlier in Moscow, punctuated the routine meeting. Approval of the creation of ministries for the Protection of Public Order (militia) and Education continued the post-Khrushchev trend toward centralization of government functions.

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Nicaragua: [Lorrenzo Guerrero, the new president of Nicaragua, is said to be a good administrator

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Designated by Congress to fill out the last nine months of the term of President Schick, who died yesterday, Guerrero is unlikely to make any major changes in the country's foreign or domestic policies. There is little doubt that Guerrero will support General Anastasia Somoza in his bid for the presidency in next February's election.

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The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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The Director of Intelligence and Research

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The Deputy Secretary of Defense

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The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

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Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

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The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

The Department of Justice

The Attorney General

The Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Director

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The Administrator

The Atomic Energy Commission

The Chairman

The National Security Agency

The Director

The United States Information Agency

The Director

The National Intelligence Center

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